

The suggestions made by Mr. D. G. Sevastopulo in his paper have prompted me to submit this note. You may retain the specimen and deal with it as you think fit.

DANDELI,
NORTH KANARA.

A. G. L. FRASER,
Capt., I.M.D. (Retd.).

[Through the good offices of Prof. G. Hale Carpenter of Oxford University to whom the specimen was submitted, we have obtained the opinion of Dr. G. C. Ainsworth who kindly got the mould into culture in order to identify it.

Dr. Ainsworth writes:

'The butterfly fungus is proving troublesome . . . it is undoubtedly a species of *Aspergillus* but I cannot be specific. In 1879, M. C. Coote (? Cooke) described an *Aspergillus* which he obtained from the pupa of an Erie silk moth from Cachar, and there are a few other records of *Aspergilli* damaging insects. The present one does not seem to agree with any of these, nor with any other good species of *Aspergillus*. It grows *very* slowly, and the conidial heads are mostly what I take to be malformed. . . . All I can say at present is that the fungus is a species of *Aspergillus* which is possibly undescribed If I make no more progress I will send a culture to an expert in the groups in U.S.A.'

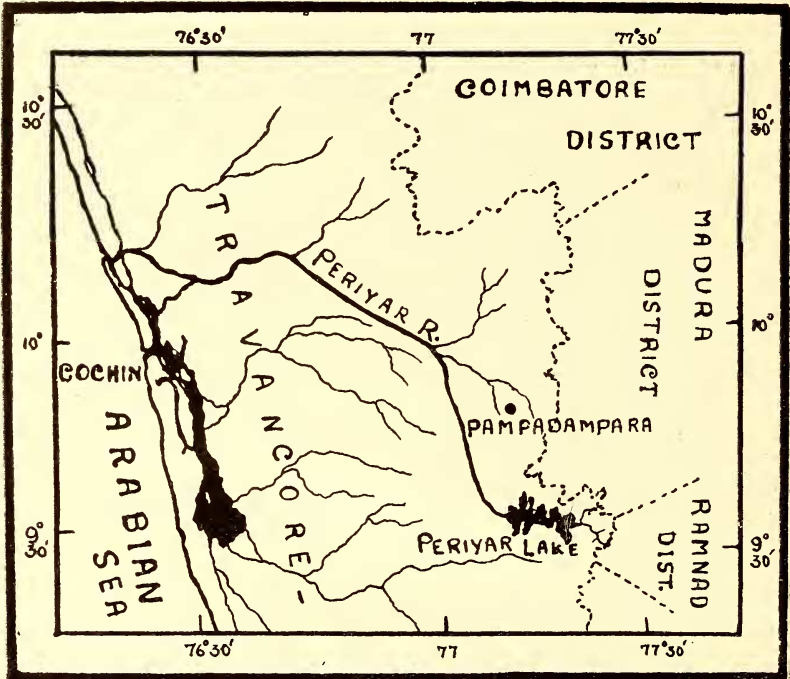
A further communication is awaited with interest.—Eds.]

22. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE FRESHWATER MEDUSA, *LIMNOCNIDA INDICA* ANNANDALE, IN THE WESTERN DRAINAGE OF THE SAHYADRIS

(With a text map)

While recording in the August 1950 issue of this journal (Vol. 49, p. 318) the occurrence of *Limnocyclus indica* Annandale from below the Jog falls in the Sharavati river, Ramakrishna and others (1) were evidently not aware of the fact that *Limnocyclus* was already recorded from the western drainage of the Sahyadri by Darling (2) in 1935. In pointing out the significance of the find in a water system flowing westwards she said 'It is noteworthy that freshwater medusae were found by Dr. S. P. Agharkar, but were in a river system which flows eastwards across the continent and enters the Bay of Bengal'. Though her provisional identification of the medusa stopped with the genus, it is unlikely that it could be any species other than *L. indica*. The medusa was collected by Darling from the Periyar Lake, Travancore, which is formed by the construction of a dam across the Periyar river which flows westwards into the Arabian Sea (sketch-map). The water stored in the lake is diverted to the Madura District for irrigational purposes, along a tunnel through the Western Ghats.

A still more interesting but yet unpublished record of *L. indica* from the western drainage of the Sahyadris is its collection by Mr. G. Renga Aiyer of Trivandrum in 1944 from a stagnant tank at Pampadampara Estate in the Cardamon Hills, Travancore, about 20 miles north of the Periyar Lake and lying within the Periyar watershed (sketch-map). So far as I know he did not record the collection



probably in view of the note by Darling (2) on the occurrence of the medusa within the same watershed. For about 2 years, from 1940 to 1942, I was stationed at Pampadampara, but the presence of the medusa did not come to my notice though I made fish collections from the tank several times. I have seen the material collected by Mr. Renga Aiyar and this consists mostly of large specimens, but cannot give from memory any further details. He told me that collection was mainly done by disturbing the surface by pouring bucketfulls of water which helped the medusa to come up in the eddy that was formed.

The Pampadampara tank, situated at an altitude of about 3,000 feet, is an artificial one, roughly oval in shape, about 120 feet long and 90 feet broad and formed by the construction of a small bund at the head end of a narrow ravine near the estate quarters. The water in the tank is intended for the labourers, for bathing purposes, and is used by cattle also. There is no stream flowing into the tank and it depends entirely on the rainwater washed down from the sides. The depth is about 5 feet during summer and 8 feet during the rains, and the

bottom is soft mud. In summer there is no outflow from the tank and the ravine below is dry while during the rainy months the excess water flows out into it through a small drain pipe. This tricklet flows into other streams lower down that ultimately swell into one of the main tributaries of the Periyar river, which it meets about 35 miles below the dam.

The Pampadampara tank is different from other pieces of water from where *Limnocyclus* has been recorded hitherto in that it does not lie in the regular course of a river. There could be little doubt that the medusa came into the tank after its construction some years ago. The agency responsible for its introduction could at present be only a matter of speculation. If a resting stage, as suggested by the previous workers (3), actually exists there is chance for its fortuitous distribution during this phase of its life-history. A further point of interest in the occurrence of the medusa in the Periyar watershed is that this region lies in the southern section of the Sahyadri range which is separated by the Palaghat gap into a distinct zoogeographical zone. A systematic survey of the distribution of the medusa and a study of its life-history should yield interesting results.

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15th November, 1950.

S. JONES

REFERENCES

- (1) *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 1950, **49** (2) : 318-319.
- (2) *Nature*, 1935, **135** (3404) : 151.
- (3) See (1) above for the previous references.

23. NEW RECORD FOR *FREREA INDICA* DALZ. IN BOMBAY PROVINCE

In this journal (**41** : 143, 1939) C. McCann, formerly the Curator of our Society, published a very complete and illustrated description of this plant. According to McCann, the plant had been seen three times in Bombay Province, and in every case either on Junnar Hill, Poona Dt., or in its immediate neighbourhood. Recently I found it at Purandhar, Poona Dt., at an altitude of about 4,000 ft., on the slopes just below Vazirgarh Fort, the twin fort of Purandhar.

At first sight the plant looked to me like a somewhat stunted and irregular stem of *Euphorbia neriiifolia*, but for the absence of thorns and the regular arrangement of the leaves, that seemed to be opposite, to judge from the leaf scars. After a week of keeping the plant on the floor of my room in Purandhar, I brought it down to Bombay and planted it in my laboratory. In a week's time the plant brought out several leaves, and on December 20th 1950, it opened its flowers; these are so typical that I have no doubt about the identity of the plant.

Purandhar, then, is to be considered a new locality for this very rare plant. At the same time, judging from my experience, it is